

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 AID-05 IGA-02 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 L-03 OMB-01

TRSE-00 H-03 DRC-01 EB-12 /098 W

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R 051035Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2118

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1370

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SY, TC, US

SUBJECT: SHAIKH ZAYID'S WILLINGNESS TO HELP WITH U.S. ECONOMIC AID
PROJECTS IN SYRIA

REF: DAMASCUS 2005 AND 2063.

1. DURING MIDNIGHT RAMADHAN CALL ON SHAIKH ZAYID OCTOBER 3,
I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION SYRIAN AID REQUESTS AND TO RAISE
POSSIBILITY THAT UAE MIGHT WISH TO CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY TO MAKE
SOME OF THESE PROJECTS POSSIBLE. CROWN PRINCE SHIKH KHALIFA ONLY
OTHER PERSON PRESENT.

2. I SAID U.S. WAS PLEASED AT RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH SYRIA WHICH HAD BEEN MADE POSSIBLE WITH
SYRIA-ISRAEL SEPARATION OF FORCES AGREEMENT. FOLLOWING
REESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, SYRIANS HAD OPENED
DISCUSSIONS WITH US ABOUT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THEY NEEDED.
WE WANTED TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO THESE REQUESTS,
BUT SHAIKH ZAYID COULD APPRECIATE THAT SYRIAN
"SHOPPING LIST" EXCEEDED WHAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO
PROVIDE, GIVEN US WORLD-WIDE RESPONSIBILITIES AND
DIFFICULTIES WE WERE HAVING IN GETTING FY75 ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE BILL THROUGH CONGRESS. I THEREFORE WANTED
TO GO OVER LIST OF SYRIAN REQUESTS WITH SHAIKH ZAYID,
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AND, RECALLING OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WHEN HE HAD INDI-

CATED HIS SPECIAL INTEREST IN SYRIAN SITUATION, ASK FRANKLY WHETHER HE WOULD HAVE AN INTEREST IN JOINING US TO SUPPORT THESE PROJECTS. I SAID LOOKING OVER LIST MYSELF I THOUGHT THERE WERE TWO THAT HE MIGHT PARTICULARLY BE INTERESTED IN: A REQUEST FOR 100 GRADUATE LEVEL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SYRIANS IN US UNIVERSITIES; AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL/TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE IN SYRIA.

3. SHAIKH ZAYID RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO BOTH PROJECTS. DISCUSSION ENSUED BETWEEN FATHER AND SON AS TO HOW MUCH MONEY MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. ZAYID THEN SAID TO ME THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO GO HALVES WITH US ON THESE TWO PROJECTS, IF USG DECIDED TO SUPPORT THEM. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING ALSO TO TALK WITH US ABOUT ANY OTHER ITEM ON SYRIAN LIST.

4. I THANKED ZAYID FOR THIS POSITIVE RESPONSE AND IT WAS LEFT THAT AS SOON AS I HAD MORE DETAILED INFORMATION AS TO NATURE OF PROJECTS AND PRECISE SUMS REQUIRED, I WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH SHAIKH KHALIFA.

5. INCIDENTIALLY, WHEN CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO SYRIAN SITUATION IN MORE GENERAL TERMS, ZAYID VOLUNTEERED TO ME THAT IN RECENT "CONTACTS" WITH SARG (HE DID NOT SAY WHAT THESE WERE PRECISELY) HE HAD URGED THAT SYRIANS BE PATIENT AND THAT THEY SHOULD GIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL FULL CHANCE TO BEAR FRUIT.

6. COMMENT: COOPERATION BETWEEN ZAYID AND USG ON SYRIAN AID REQUESTS STANDS NOT ONLY TO ADVANCE OUR OBJECTIVES IN SYRIA, BUT WILL ALSO BE STRAND IN FABRIC OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WE ARE SEEKING TO WEAVE HERE. MORE WE HAVE OF THIS NATURE, BETTER POSITION WE WILL BE IN TO DEAL WITH ISSUES THAT ARISE BETWEEN US AND UAE. THEREFORE, IF DEPT. IS INTERESTED IN PURSUING THIS TRILATERAL APPROACH, I RECOMMEND WE FOLLOW UP QUICKLY TO PIN DOWN ZAYID'S COMMITMENT WITH AS MUCH SPECIFICITY AS POSSIBLE. DEPT. MAY ALSO WISH TO HAVE ME PURSUE HIS OPEN-END INVITATION TO DISCUSS ANY OF OTHER PROJECTS ON LIST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ABUDH01370
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740283-0378
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741069/aaaachbx.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DAMASCUS 2005 AND 2063.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHAIKH ZAYID'S WILLINGNESS TO HELP WITH U.S. ECONOMIC AID PROJECTS IN SYRIA
TAGS: EAID, SY, TC, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005